

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JULY 30, 2013

**Proclaiming World Breastfeeding Month and Week 2013**

Breastfeeding is a low-cost, preventive practice with far-reaching benefits for both mothers and babies. While initiating breastfeeding is a mother's personal choice, success at breastfeeding requires a supportive environment of family, health care providers, employers, and more. Breastfeeding benefits society through lower health care costs for infants, stronger family bonds, and a decrease in production and consumer waste. Additionally, providing only human milk in the early months of a child's life can significantly decrease their risk of many serious conditions including asthma, diabetes, and childhood obesity.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that breastfeeding is a public health issue and the Surgeon General of the United States has issued a call to action to support breastfeeding and encourage an environment to facilitate breastfeeding.

The County of Los Angeles (County) is committed to creating a supportive environment for breastfeeding. The Department of Health Services has achieved the

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MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

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globally recognized Baby-Friendly designation for all three birthing hospitals offering an optimal level of care for infant feeding and mother/baby bonding. The Department of Human Resources has adopted and implemented a County-wide Employee Lactation Accommodation Policy and Program in compliance with state and federal law. Through a grant from the Federal Government, the Department of Public Health is coordinating technical assistance for both prenatal clinics and hospitals with a goal of 10 additional hospitals achieving the Baby-Friendly designation by 2016.

In support of the benefits of breastfeeding, the County should proclaim the week of August 1-7, 2013 as "World Breastfeeding Week" and the month of August as "National Breastfeeding Month".

**THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Proclaim the week of August 1-7, 2013 as "World Breastfeeding Week" and the month of August as "National Breastfeeding Month" in Los Angeles County;
2. Encourage all hospitals in Los Angeles County to achieve the Baby-Friendly designation by adopting the "10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding for Hospitals," as outlined by the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization and recommended by the 2011 Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding;
3. Encourage all County employees to communicate the important role breastfeeding plays in the health of mothers, children, and the community; and

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4. Encourage all employers to adopt workplace lactation accommodation policies in accordance with California Labor Code §1030-3 and federal statute FLSA § 7(r) (as amended by the Affordable Care Act).

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